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2 Panels Urge a Halt in Nuclear Testing

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WASHINGTON, April 3 — Two panels of American and European experts on international affairs asserted today that a comprehensive test ban treaty, negotiated by the two great powers, would go a long way toward preventing additional countries from acquiring nuclear weapons.

After three years of studying the problems of the spread of nuclear arms, the Americans and the Europeans agreed in separate reports that a complete halt in testing by the United States and the Soviet Union would create pressure on other countries to sign such an accord.

Without testing, the specialists said, nonnuclear countries would have difficulty developing advanced weapons and might refrain from crossing the nuclear threshold.

The Reagan Administration, arguing that testing was necessary for the United States to catch up with Soviet advances, has rejected Moscow's efforts to negotiate a comprehensive test ban and has refused to reciprocate for a halt in testing undertaken independently by the Russians in recent months.

The 1974 Treaty

The two countries' programs are now governed by the Threshold Test Ban Treaty of 1974, which limits nuclear detonations to underground explosions of less than 150 kilotons. Mikhail S. Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, has offered to meet President Reagan in Europe to negotiate a complete ban.

"We're not going to have a real non-proliferation regime as long as we have an open race with the Soviet Union in strategic arms," said the chairman of the American panel, Gerard C. Smith, who served as the chief United States negotiator in the talks that led to the 1972 treaty with the Soviet Union on limiting strategic arms.

Similar "psychological and political linkages" between the test ban and the spread of nuclear arms were seen by the chairman of the 11-member European group, Johan Jorgen Holst, a former Minister of State in the Norwegian Foreign and Defense Ministries.

The 'Nuclear Haves'

In gathering signatures on the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons of 1968, the "nuclear haves," Mr. Holst contended, agreed to restrain their own arms development and production.

"The nuclear-haves have not delivered on that bargain," he added. "A comprehensive test ban treaty would contribute the major step."

The two reports were published in a single volume by the Council on Foreign Relations, which sponsored the studies in cooperation with the Center for European Policy Studies in Brussels.

The 23-member American group included James R. Schlesinger, former Secretary of Defense and former Director of Central Intelligence; Lieut. Gen. Brent Scowcroft, White House national security adviser in the Ford Administration; Marshall D. Shulman, a specialist on Soviet affairs at Columbia University who served as an adviser in the Carter Administration, and Warren M. Christopher, a former Deputy Secretary of State.

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